



## Lesson: A Look into the National Park



### Introduction to the Lesson/Activity

This lesson will help students identify the significance of National Park Service to our nation. It reviews the role of *National Park System* areas and the use and

*preservation* of these areas for future generations. It identifies its symbol, the arrowhead, and establishes some of the historical events which affect the National Park Service.  
Grade k-12

### Objectives

Students will:

1. Name the federal agency that is entrusted with *preserving* our nation's natural and cultural heritage.
2. Describe significant features or events that make *National Park System* areas special and qualify them for inclusion in a *National Park System*.
3. Identify three unique qualities of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area that led to the designation as a national park.

### Materials

Outline maps of the United States  
Maps of the *National Park System* or U.S. atlas  
Map of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Chalkboard  
Paper  
Pencil

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## Activity

1. Have the students name any *National Park System* areas they have visited. If there are many responses, make a list on the chalkboard. Introduce the *National Park System* map to the class. Identify some of the areas across the country, indicating natural and cultural areas. Utilize any picture books of the *National Park System* that may be in the school or public libraries. Ask the students if they can identify the *National Park System* units in the state of Oklahoma [Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, and Oklahoma City National Memorial]. Were any of these not on the class list? Were they overlooked because the students did not realize these areas were “parks?”
2. Divide the class into teams of three or four students. Give each team an outline map of the United States and three park folders from different park areas around the country. (Contact your local *National Park System* area for addresses of the park areas of which you would like brochures. Write these parks and they will gladly send you their park folder and other information. You may also research park areas via the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov>.) Ask the teams to do the following: (1) label their park names on the U.S. map and look over the brochures for each park, and (2) make a list of three important (unique) things about each park. After an appropriate length of time, have each team share with the class the names and important aspects of the parks they investigated.
3. Now give each group a park folder of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Have the groups identify three characteristics of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area that are special and make it worthy of national designation. When completed, have the students write their answers and share their ideas.
4. Read the enclosed essay and have students reevaluate step 3 of this activity. Allow them to make any revisions they feel are necessary and compare answers again.
5. Assign students a project of researching more about the *National Park System* or about a park they might wish to visit some day. Have them submit a written story on the significance of the park and why they would want to visit it.

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## Key Vocabulary

Preservation, Preserving, National Park Service, Unique, Protection, Conserved, Stewardship, and Arrowhead

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## Essential Questions

1. What is the responsibility of the National Park Service?
2. What does each of the symbols on the arrowhead represent?
3. What does the National Park Service mean to me?

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**Oklahoma Pass Standards****Kindergarten**

Vocabulary: Standard 4

Listening: Standard 1

Listening: Standard 2

Listening: Standard 3

**Grade 1**

Language Arts: Standard 4

Oral Language/Listening and Speaking:

Listening: Standard 1

Listening: Standard 2

Group Interaction: Standard 3

Social Studies: Standard 1

**Grade 2**

Oral Language/Listening and Speaking:

Standard 1

Oral Language/Listening and Speaking: Group

Interaction: Standard 3

Social Studies: Standard 1

**Grade 3**

Standard 1.1: Listening

Social Studies: Standard 3

Social Studies: Standard 4

Social Studies: Standard 1

**Grade 4**

Language Arts: Oral Language/Listening and

Speaking: Standard 1

Visual Art: Standard 3

Social Studies: Standard 1

**Grade 5**

Listening: Standard 1

Visual Art: Standard 3

Social Studies: Standard 1

Social Studies: Standard 7

**Grade 6**

World Studies: Standard 1

World Studies: Standard 2

**Grade 7**

Social Studies: Standard 6

Social Studies Standard 1

World Geography: Standard 1

World Geography: Standard 3

**Grade 8**

Social Studies: Standard 1

Social Studies: Standard 2:

**High School - History**

Social Studies: Processing skill Standard 1

**United States History 1850 to the Present**

Standard 1 &amp; Standard 4

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**Other Suggested Activities**Timeline of laws concerning management of  
resources in the National ParksTimeline of events for Chickasaw National  
Recreation Area